

# Oral Diabetes Medications (Pills)

| medication name   | how it works   | what to watch out for  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Diabeta</b> (glyburide)<br><b>Diamicron</b> (gliclazide)   | triggers pancreas to release more insulin  | low blood sugars<br>weight gain with glyburide                                       |
| <b>Metformin</b> (glucophage)<br>(glumetza)   | reduces amount of glucose produced by the liver<br>increases insulin sensitivity   | stomach upset, diarrhea,<br>nausea, bloating   |
| <b>Prandase</b> (acarbose)  | targets the digestive track to delay absorption of starch  | flatulence (gas)<br>rare bloating  |
| <b>Januvia</b> (sitagliptin)<br><b>Onglyza</b> (saxagliptin)<br><b>Trajenta</b> (linagliptin)             | works when glucose rises after a meal<br>trigger pancreas to release more insulin<br>reduces amount of glucose produced by the liver | stomach discomfort<br>and diarrhea   |
| ✦ <b>Invokana</b> (canagliflozin)<br><b>Forxiga</b> (dapagliflozin)<br>✦ <b>Jardiance</b> (empagliflozin) | blocks the re-absorption of glucose in the kidneys   | may cause yeast infections<br>risk of dehydration                                    |
| ✦ <b>Rybelsus</b> (semaglutide)   | triggers pancreas to release more insulin after meals, slows digestion and lowers appetite   | nausea, diarrhea<br><br>speak with your pharmacist about how to take this medication |

✦ This medication also helps to protect against heart disease

Some types of diabetes medications are combined together in 1 pill, for convenience.

- **Janumet** – Januvia and Metformin
- **Komboglyze** – Onglyza and Metformin
- **Jentadueto** – Trajenta and Metformin
- **Invokamet** – Invokana and Metformin
- **Xigduo** – Forxiga and Metformin

## Injectable Diabetes Medications

| medication name                  | how it works   | what to watch out for |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| ✦ <b>Victoza</b> (liraglutide)   | triggers pancreas to release more insulin after meals, slows digestion and lowers appetite | nausea, diarrhea      |
| ✦ <b>Ozempic</b> (semaglutide)   |  |                       |
| ✦ <b>Trulicity</b> (dulaglutide) |  |                       |

Some injectable diabetes medications are available in combination with insulin. These are:

- **Soliqua** (Insulin glargine and lixisenatide)
- **Xultophy** (Insulin degludec and liraglutide)

## Know where to get support

If you are having difficulty affording your medications, there are financial assistance programs available. Speak to your pharmacist or diabetes educator to learn more.

- 1 | **Ontario Drug Benefit Plan (ODB) – (for those age 65 and older)**
  - Includes coverage for most insulins, some diabetes pills and blood sugar test strips
  - t. 416.327.8109 | or, ask at your local pharmacy
- 2 | **Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – OHIP+ - (for those age 24 and younger)**
  - Includes the same supplies as ODB —insulin, diabetes pills and blood testing strips
  - t. 1.866.532.3161 (Service Ontario)
- 3 | **Trillium Drug Plan – (for those age 25 to 64 years)**
  - Income based, supports people who have high drug costs compared to their net household income
  - t. 1.800.575.5386 or 416.326.1558 | or, ask your pharmacy for an application
- 4 | **Monitoring for Health Program**
  - Anyone using insulin or who has gestational diabetes and receives no other coverage
  - 75% coverage for strips & lancets (\$920 max)
  - t. 1.800.361.0796
- 5 | **Syringes for Seniors – (for those age 65 and older)**
  - Helps cover costs of needles and syringes for insulin administration
  - \$170 per year grant to cover cost of needles or syringes
  - t. 1.800.268.6021